Gauge Conversion between Mysore and Chamarajanagar

1785. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to stale:

(a) whether it is a fact that proposal for gauge conversion between Mysore and Chamarajanagar in Karnataka was included in the 1997-98 budget;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka Government has requested for early implementation of the project and for allocation of funds in the financial year, 1999-2000;

(d) if so, the details of the proposal and the allocation made in the current financial year; and

(e) what is the targeted date for implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work was included at a cost of Rs. 175 crores to be taken up after obtaining the requisite clearances.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposal is being sent to CCEA for their clearance.

(e) Not yet fixed.

Special Trains for Pilgrims for Tirupati

1786. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are unable to meet the seasonal rush of pilgrims in Andhra Pradesh especially in Tirupati; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to run special trains, especially in summer season?